Mount Saint Mary's University | Los Angeles

mount

magazine

fall/winter 2017

School's out(side) for the summer

When the beach and the L.A. river are your research labs

Passion projects: Celebrating this year's outstanding alums

Off and running: Ready to Run™ alums share experiences

Wellness on campus: Encouraging healthy choices

OUR MOUNT WELLNESS MOVEMENT continues to gain momentum. This semester, our first cohort of peer wellness advocates begins training on how to inspire and coach others toward a healthier lifestyle. This special group of students is key to our Mount Wellness movement, as they will motivate, empower and educate their peers who are — or want to be — on the path to better fitness and eating habits. They will receive special certified peer educator training throughout the fall semester and will begin meeting one-on-one with their student clients in the spring. I am excited about this program and all the new wellness initiatives we're featuring in this magazine.

Some of our unstoppable students spent their summer weeks doing research outside the walls of their science labs. Thanks to their faculty mentor, Adriane Jones, PhD, our undergraduate researchers spent part of their break surveying the health of marine life and habitats along the Pacific coastline and analyzing the water quality of the L.A. River as part of their aquatic microbiology study. We are proud of this research and we are happy to share that Dr. Jones and her colleague, Dr. Xiaomei Cheng, earned a three-year $200,000 National Science Foundation grant to offer this experience to other STEM students at the Mount.

Aside from applying classroom-based knowledge to real-world settings, doing research at this level builds our students' confidence in their future careers. One of our priorities as a University is to prepare more young women to pursue opportunities in the STEM fields. As Myriam (Perdices) Easton '72 says in her profile in this magazine, "I give credit to (my professors) and to the Mount for preparing me for the scientific career that I have enjoyed for more than 40 years." Myriam is a research scientist at The Aerospace Corporation and provides technical expertise to the Air Force and other Department of Defense groups.

I congratulate all our summer scholars for the amazing work they did. What they accomplished in a matter of a few weeks will make a lasting impact on their personal and professional lives.

Sincerely,

Ann McElaney-Johnson

Mount Saint Mary's University | Los Angeles
mount
magazine

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ABOUT US
Mount Saint Mary's is the only women's university in Los Angeles and one of the most diverse in the nation. The University is known nationally for its research on gender equity, its innovative health and science programs, and its commitment to community service. As a leading liberal arts institution, Mount Saint Mary's provides year-round, flexible and online programs at the undergraduate and graduate level. Weekend, evening and graduate programs are offered to both women and men. Mount alums are engaged, active, global citizens who use their knowledge and skills to better themselves, their communities and the world. msmu.edu

Mount Saint Mary's University is a diverse community committed to providing an environment that is free from discrimination on the basis of any characteristic protected by federal, state or local law, ordinance or regulation.

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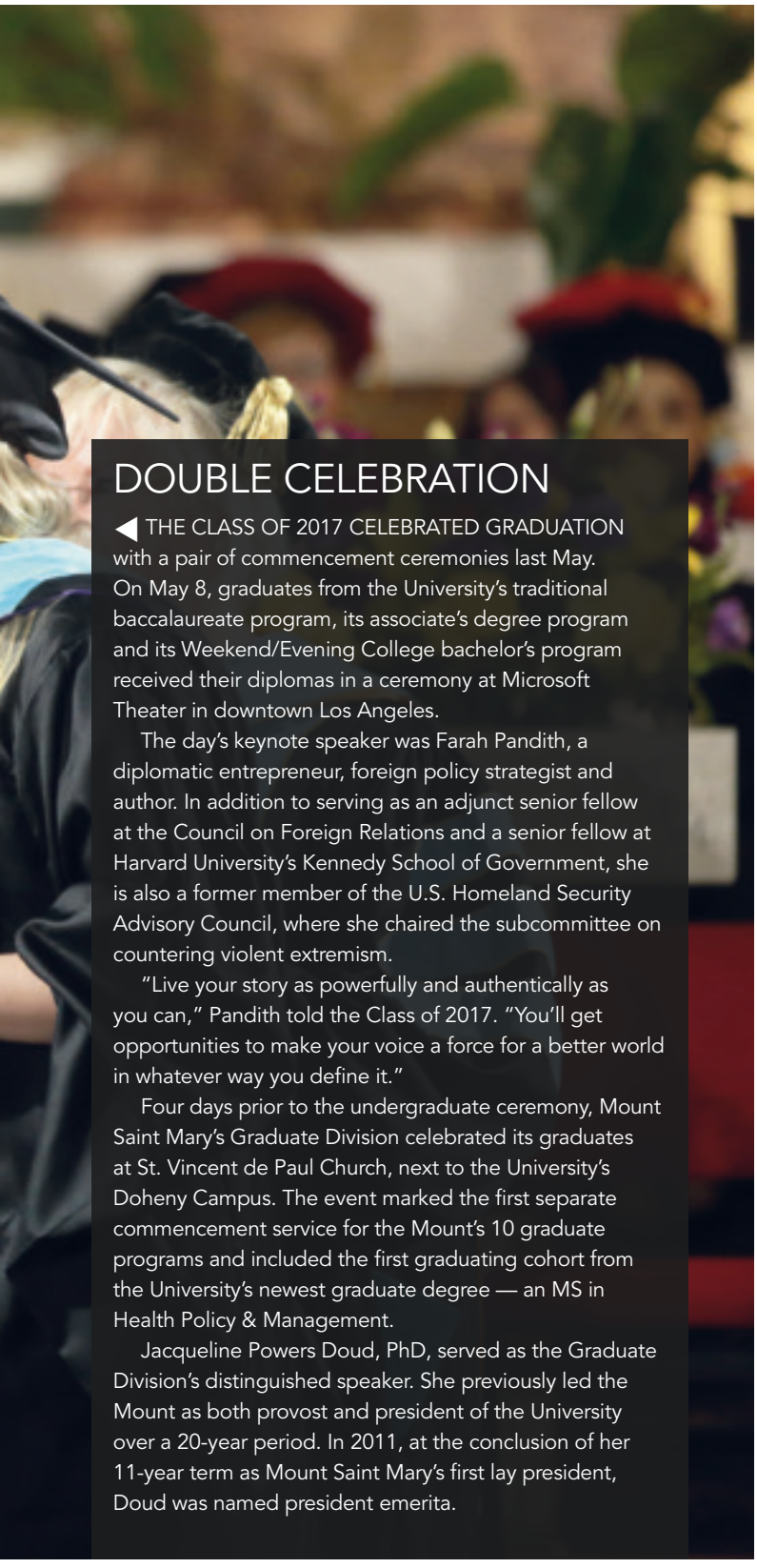


DOUBLE CELEBRATION

◀ THE CLASS OF 2017 CELEBRATED GRADUATION with a pair of commencement ceremonies last May. On May 8, graduates from the University's traditional baccalaureate program, its associate's degree program and its Weekend/Evening College bachelor's program received their diplomas in a ceremony at Microsoft Theater in downtown Los Angeles.

The day's keynote speaker was Farah Pandith, a diplomatic entrepreneur, foreign policy strategist and author. In addition to serving as an adjunct senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and a senior fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, she is also a former member of the U.S. Homeland Security Advisory Council, where she chaired the subcommittee on countering violent extremism.

"Live your story as powerfully and authentically as you can," Pandith told the Class of 2017. "You'll get opportunities to make your voice a force for a better world in whatever way you define it."

Four days prior to the undergraduate ceremony, Mount Saint Mary's Graduate Division celebrated its graduates at St. Vincent de Paul Church, next to the University's Doheny Campus. The event marked the first separate commencement service for the Mount's 10 graduate programs and included the first graduating cohort from the University's newest graduate degree — an MS in Health Policy & Management.

Jacqueline Powers Doud, PhD, served as the Graduate Division's distinguished speaker. She previously led the Mount as both provost and president of the University over a 20-year period. In 2011, at the conclusion of her 11-year term as Mount Saint Mary's first lay president, Doud was named president emerita.

ANOTHER HEALTHY CHOICE

▼ON MAY 12, MOUNT SAINT MARY'S became a member of the Partnership for a Healthier America's (PHA) Healthier Campus Initiative. Through this partnership, the University will expand its efforts to make the healthy choice the best — and easiest — decision when it comes to nutrition and wellness options on campus. The Mount is the first women's university to join the PHA, and one of just five universities in California to join this ambitious effort led by the PHA's honorary chair, former First Lady Michelle Obama.

MOUNT WELLNESS

What else is new with Mount Wellness this fall? Check out Page 10.

"We're excited to be part of a national vanguard that is leading and showing the way when it comes to healthy living," says President Ann McElaney-Johnson. "Creating strong, confident, resilient leaders is what Mount Saint Mary's is all about, and it's why our own Mount Wellness movement exists."

The Mount Wellness movement empowers students, faculty and staff to embrace a healthy lifestyle, built on four key concepts: move more, eat green, de-stress and sleep well.

Learn more about Mount Wellness at **msmu.edu/wellness**.

Chief Wellness Officer Bryant Adibe, MD, represents the University at the Partnership for a Healthier America summit in May.

PHOTO BY GLENN MARZANO

A MISSION SHE KNOWS WELL

▲ THE PREMIER ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S COLLEGES has a new leader, and it's one the Mount knows well. This summer, President Ann McElaney-Johnson was named the new chair of the Women's College Coalition, which serves as the voice for women's colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. McElaney-Johnson has been part of the coalition for nearly 20 years, and a board member for the past three. She will now help steer the organization's efforts in support of its mission: to transform the world through the education and success of women and girls.

THE RESILIENT LEADER

▶ HUNDREDS OF ATTENDEES at this fall's Women's Leadership Conference heard from a deep roster of women leaders involved in a wide range of entrepreneurial, educational, political, social and creative fields. The theme of the Sept. 16 event, presented by the University's Center for the Advancement of Women, was "The Resilient Leader: Propelling Our Ability to Succeed."

Why resilience? By learning resilience, leaders find it easier to stay grounded, to bounce back more readily from difficult situations and to harness the successes that propel careers, or missions, forward. Some of the speakers were author Danielle Harlan, PhD, *top right*, founder and CEO of the Center for Advancing Leadership and Human Potential; and Mallika Chopra, *bottom right*, an author, media entrepreneur, public speaker and founder of Intent.com. Visit msmu.edu/WLC for an event recap and a look at speakers, sessions and more.

TWO ROADS, ONE JOURNEY

▼ THAT'S THE NAME OF A NEW exhibition coming to the Mount's Doheny Campus from Jan. 29 to April 28, 2018. Created by Nancy Pine, PhD, professor emerita and founder of the University's Bridging Cultures: U.S./China program, the immersive exhibit depicts a day in the life of two fourth-graders — one in China and one in America. The project draws on Pine's lifelong work, particularly her book "Educating Young Giants: What Kids Learn (and Don't Learn) in China and America." The exhibition will be on display at the J. Thomas McCarthy Library, thanks to the support of the library and the Mount's Center for Global Initiatives.

GRADE 'A' SUPPORT FOR MOMS

A JULY REPORT FROM THE California Women's Law Center and Breastfeed LA, "Lactation 101," measures how well L.A.-area colleges and universities support pregnant and breastfeeding mothers on campus. Out of 107 institutions graded, only Mount Saint Mary's received an A. In addition to providing lactation rooms, the University has created a resource guide for pregnant and parenting students. It also publishes data that highlight breastfeeding rates and care for new mothers in the annual Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California™.

THE CLASS OF 2021 IS HERE

THE UNIVERSITY'S NEWEST ATHENIANS are in full swing this fall semester, and their smooth transition to campus life is due in part to the orientation sessions they had the chance to be part of this summer at both Chalon, *above*, and Doheny, *below*. First-year and transfer students received early academic counseling from faculty advisors, learned about campus resources and prepared for the opportunities that would greet them this fall. Students also bonded with their classmates in small teams led by returning student orientation leaders, and alumnae joined in the fun, sharing stories and advice.

NEW TRUSTEE

SISTER EDITH PRENDERGAST, RSC, D.Min, is the newest addition to the Mount's board of trustees. A member of the Religious Sisters of Charity, the Irish native has served as the director of the Office of Religious Education in the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles since 1987. In that role, she directs the annual Religious Education Congress, an event that draws nearly 40,000 people from around the world each spring. She earned her doctorate in ministry from Claremont School of Theology.

CELEBRATING AS ONE COMMUNITY

▲ Together, Mount Saint Mary's two campuses celebrated Mass of the Holy Spirit as one community on Sept. 12 at St. Vincent de Paul Church near the Doheny Campus. During the sermon, President Ann McElaney-Johnson said, "Caring for the dear neighbors, as the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet do...means that we don't stand down until every neighbor, everywhere, is clothed in dignity and in love." Fr. Sean Dempsey, SJ, an assistant professor of history from Loyola Marymount University, presided over the year-opening Mass.

PHOTO BY KIM FOX

TOP-VALUE ACCOLADE

▼ MONEY MAGAZINE has once again recognized Mount Saint Mary's in its annual list of U.S. colleges that add the most value to students' education. For the second consecutive year, the University is ranked No. 2 nationally on Money's "Best Value All-Stars" list, for helping students exceed expectations in college and post-graduation. Mount Saint Mary's has remained a mainstay on this list since the magazine debuted these rankings in 2014, when it had the Mount at No. 1.

NEW TO THE U

▲ THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR brings fresh academic offerings for Mount Saint Mary's students. The traditional baccalaureate program has five new minors: linguistics in the language and culture department; social justice and sexual diversity in religious studies; acting, professional photography, and cinematography/documentary in the film, media and communications department. New specializations include healthcare management under the business major; photography in the MFA in Film & Television program; and licensed professional clinical counselor in psychology. In the fall of 2018, the Weekend/Evening College will add a bachelor of fine arts in professional photography.

MONEY MAGAZINE BEST COLLEGES 2017

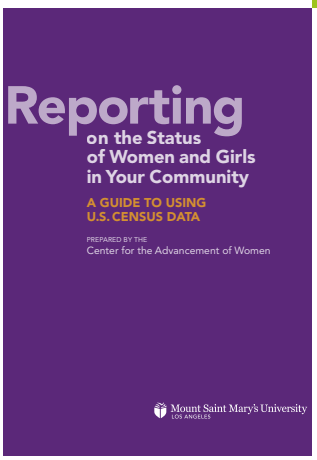
#2

IN THE NATION

Best Value All-Stars

SPEAKING UP FOR IMMIGRANTS

ON JUNE 27, PRESIDENT ANN MCELANEY-JOHNSON added her voice to a public conversation on "The Immigration Crisis: Responses of the Church and the Community," held at Holy Family Church in South Pasadena, Calif. The discussion included leaders from higher education, law enforcement and the church. McElaney-Johnson's comments echoed many that she has made to the Mount community, including this note to students during a period of increased activity by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in the spring: "I want to reassure you that your entire Mount community stands behind you — and beside you — in these times," she wrote. "As a university founded on the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet's commitment to serve 'all persons without distinction,' I want you to know that we will continue to do everything we can to support you."



RESEARCH EXPERTISE

◀ MOUNT SAINT MARY'S has long created localized versions of its Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California™ for cities and counties across the state. In August, the Mount's Center for the Advancement of Women released a how-to "Guide to Using U.S. Census Data," so that communities and researchers can mine some of the federal data for themselves and determine how women and girls are faring in their own communities.

Find the guide at msmu.edu/CAW.

MEET THE SISTERS

▲THOSE IN THE MOUNT COMMUNITY know well just how incredible and visionary our founding Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet are. Soon, others will too — thanks to an oral and visual history project being conducted by our CSJ Institute. With the assistance of faculty and students in the University's MFA in Film, Television & Photography program, hours and hours of interviews with sisters are being turned into a series of short documentary videos. In the first video, "Meet the Sisters," a wide range of sisters share what inspired them to join the CSJs, touching on reasons like freedom, joy, purpose, laughter and love.

Watch and learn what inspires those who inspire all of us at Mount Saint Mary's: msmu.edu/CSJInstitute.

YOUR INVITE TO SERVE

▼ YOUR CHANCE TO SERVE your community is closer than you think. The President's Invitation to Serve typically takes place each spring but this school year, the event will take place Saturday, Nov. 4. Join the Mount community in honoring the legacy of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet by serving our dear neighbors. Volunteer sites will be listed and registration will open in October at msmu.edu/invitetoserve. Alums will also be able to participate in service projects in Orange County, the Bay Area and Phoenix, Ariz. More information at alums.msmu.edu/service2017.

HOLY LAND VISIT

◀ IN MAY, THE CAMPUS MINISTRY team shepherded a group of students, alums, staff and friends on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The journey was led by Gail Gresser, director of Campus Ministry, and Fr. Felix Just, SJ. A similar trip is already being planned for May 2019. To read about another Mount pilgrimage this summer, see our "L.A. to Le Puy" feature on page 19.

STUDENTS ON THE MIC: TEDxMSMU

▼ ON MAY 3, MOUNT SAINT MARY'S students produced the first-ever TEDx event at the University. "TEDxMSMU" echoed the mantra of L.A.'s women's university, said lead organizer Phylizia Carrillo '17, *below*: "We are unstoppable. At the Mount, the question isn't, 'Who is going to let me?' but rather, 'Who is going to stop me?'"

Student speakers and topics included OnJonet Williams '18 on "Poetry, Panic Attacks and Public Speaking," Sue Turjman '17 on "The CRISPR Revolution and its Impact on our Future," Sydnei Jones '17 on "The Unstoppable Black Lives Movement," Caitlyn Keeve '20 on "Understanding Introspection: Nature's Best Superpower," and Julia Johnson '18 on "Music Education: Teaching Us to Diverge from the Standard and Jump!"

CAMP DUTY

▲ A QUARTET OF NURSING students got in some island time this summer, but this was no vacation. Led by Leah FitzGerald, PhD, dean of nursing, the students served weeklong stints as camp nurses during this summer's Catalina Island Camps, providing first aid and teaching wellness education. Seniors Maritoni Abanto, Megan Jessome, Victoria Pintado and Tina Tran served as the camp nurses.

"I was so grateful to have some real practice navigating through the week and getting to talk with the kids a lot more than we do in the hospital," Jessome says. "Whether a child had a mild abrasion, high fever or homesickness, I saw how much of an impact a nurse can make."

TO LIVE AND WRITE IN L.A.

▶ WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO LIVE AND WRITE IN LOS ANGELES? On Sept. 16-17, a mix of accomplished novelists, essayists, poets, playwrights and screenwriters shared their experience at Mount Saint Mary's third annual Writers Conference. Created by the University's MFA in Creative Writing program, this year's conference connected emerging writers with established authors whose relationship to Los Angeles is integral to their work.

Hosted on the Mount's Doheny Campus, the two-day event offered workshops, readings, panel discussions and even film screenings to showcase screenwriters' work, thanks to the support of the University's MFA in Film, Television & Photography. Most of all, the weekend served as a writing retreat, offering opportunities to spark creativity, hone a craft and appreciate what it means to be a writer in the City of Angels.

Among the award-winning authors who spoke at the conference are, clockwise from top left: Francesca Lia Block, Laurie Israel, Damon Wayans and Karen An-Hwei Lee. Check out the full list of presenters at msmu.edu/writers.

accolades

FACULTY

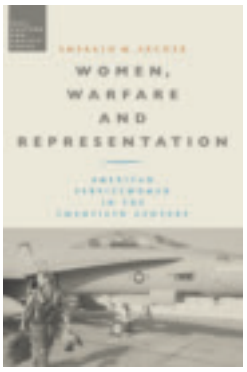
Bryant Adibe, MD, chief wellness officer and assistant professor of physical therapy and health policy and management, published a column for HuffPost in May on "Re-thinking Your Wellness Identity." He was also interviewed as a wellness expert in an Inc. com article that highlighted the benefits of "monotasking" on brain health.

The Hollywood Fringe Festival production of "Black and White in Paris: A Cabaret Musical," performed throughout May, was headlined by faculty from Mount Saint Mary's MFA in Film, Television and Photography: inspired by the black-and-white photography of professor **Christopher Broughton**; written, directed and designed by **Kelby Thwaits**, MFA chair; and sound and lighting by **Charles Bunce '16 MFA**, chair of Film, Media & Communication. Stage and Cinema's review of the show called it "a bar of gold," noting that Thwaits was a "wicked performer and instrumentalist" and that Bunce's "sound design is flawless…you hear every lovely lyric."

Leah FitzGerald, PhD, dean of nursing and Fletcher Jones Endowed Chair of Nursing Partnerships, was appointed as a board member at First African Methodist Episcopal Church (FAME), near the Mount's Doheny Campus, to help establish the congregation's community health home. Nursing students are also performing health screenings and education to members of FAME on a monthly basis.

Gloria Nwagwu, PhD, director of the RN-to-BSN program, traveled to Simanjiro, Tanzania, in July. In partnership with Village Network Africa, she conducted a community health needs assessment and taught public health best practices, including sexual health education. The work is part of a broader effort to improve rural health in Africa, and Nwagwu plans to have nursing faculty and students return yearly to address and re-evaluate the health needs of this community.

◀ **JoAnna Novak**, assistant professor of creative writing, had her debut novel, "I Must Have You," published in May by Skyhorse Publishing. Marya Hornbacher, a New York Times bestselling author, said the novel "showcases JoAnna Novak's raw, real and vivid voice in the character of Elliot, a sharp-tongued, sharp-witted and complex young heroine unlike any we've met."



STAFF

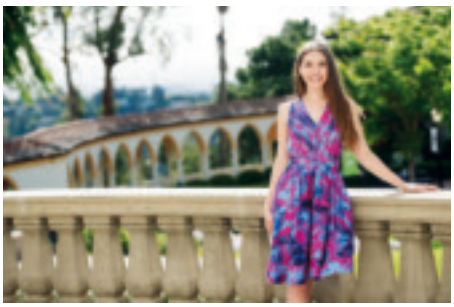
◀ **Emerald Archer**, PhD, director of the Center for the Advancement of Women, had her book, "Women, Warfare and Representation: American Servicewomen in the Twentieth Century," published by Bloomsbury this August. David Smith, associate professor of sociology at the U.S. Naval Academy, called the book a "must-read for women in every profession…and for any leader who is serious about peace and security."

STUDENTS

▲ **Gabriela Ballesteros '19**, a global politics and healthcare policy double major; **Kia Frazier Humphrey '20**, global politics; and **Sequoia Smith '20**, political science, were all selected to participate in the Women in Global Policy seminar held in Washington, D.C., this summer, hosted by the Public Leadership Education Network.

▶ **Julia Johnson '18**, a music major with an emphasis in music education and performance, spent most of her summer in a pair of prestigious summer residencies in Europe. She earned a June placement in Scuola Italia's Program for Opera Singers, studying and performing in ancient Sant'Angelo, in Vado, Italy. She spent the month of July in Austria after being accepted into the International Vocal Artists Academy of Payerbach.

Caitlyn Keeve '20, a psychology major, dedicated her summer to helping curate a major public exhibition at the University of Virginia's Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection. She earned the opportunity through a Mellon Indigenous Arts Initiative grant. The exhibition, "Songs of a Secret Country," showcases contemporary paintings and sculpture by indigenous Australian artists. Keeve was interviewed by Australian media about the exhibit, which will remain on display through July 1, 2018.



MOUNT WELLNESS

Healthy choices

The Mount Wellness movement focuses on good nutrition this fall

CREATING A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE sometimes means taking one step at a time: using the stairs instead of the elevator, choosing an apple over potato chips, walking 30 minutes a day before training for a 5K. To help students, faculty and staff take these first steps, the University's wellness movement will focus this year on promoting good nutrition and encouraging the community to make healthier choices.

"This year we are really excited to build on the momentum of the Mount Wellness initiative and debut a number of signature programs," says the Mount's Chief Wellness Officer Bryant Adibe, MD. "With healthy nutrition as our core theme for the year, we will be hosting on-campus farmers markets, making enhancements to our cafe, and having healthy cooking classes and sample giveaways."

MENU ENHANCEMENTS. The University will work with "The Wellness Kitchen" author and nutrition expert Paulette Lambert to enhance the menus and food options available in the campus cafeterias. One plan is to offer a daily "wellness meal," a balanced, nutritious and flavorful breakfast, lunch or dinner that will be branded as the healthier choice. Basic nutrition info, such as calories per serving, will be posted next to regular menu items. The cafeterias will also begin strategic product placement, putting healthier food items at eye level or within easy reach.

FARMERS MARKET. When the Mount Wellness needs assessment survey was conducted on campus, the top nutrition-based request was a farmers market on campus. Starting this fall, the University will host several events offering farm-fresh produce to students, faculty and staff.

FOOD WEEK. Other "eat green" activities planned for the year include themed food weeks, which will showcase easy recipes, cooking lessons and free food samples revolving around a particular motif. The University will celebrate Food Day on Oct. 24, in conjunction with the National Food Day movement. As part of the festivities, Wellness Manager Alison Halpern, a registered dietitian, will conduct a workshop on "A Beginner's Guide to Healthy Eating."

Peer wellness advocates with Wellness Manager Alison Halpern, center front row.

GET MOVING

Even small steps can make a huge impact in creating a healthy lifestyle. That's the thinking behind some of this year's Mount Wellness strategies to get people eating a balanced meal and moving more.

PHOTO BY WATCHARA PHOMICINDA

OUTDOOR GEAR RENTAL. Need a bodyboard, umbrella and chairs, and a volleyball for the beach? How about a tent and sleeping bag for camping? The fitness centers have you covered. Starting this fall, students can check out outdoor gear for use at the beach or on camping trips.

A WEEKEND UNDER THE SEQUOIAS. Camping and hiking trips will be offered every year to students, with the first destination being Sequoia National Park. During midsemester break in October, a group will travel to California's southern Sierra Nevada mountains for a weekend of exploring trails among groves of giant sequoia trees.

WALK THE WALK. The Chalon Campus will launch a "Take the Stairs" campaign, with signs posted near elevators encouraging folks to use the stairs instead. On the Doheny Campus, a one-mile walking path will be established to motivate the community to step away from their desks and get moving.

LEARN TO EXERCISE. The fitness centers will hold orientation sessions that will introduce students to the fitness equipment. At those sessions, students will learn how to use the equipment properly and safely. How-to-exercise classes offered throughout the year will teach physical activities such as self-defense and weight lifting.

PEER WELLNESS

◀ One of the signature components of the Mount Wellness movement is peer wellness coaching, with trained student advocates guiding and encouraging Mount students toward a healthier lifestyle.

This fall, the first cohort of peer wellness advocates begin training for their roles as mentors and coaches to help other students in their wellness journeys. As part of their training, the advocates will learn how to listen effectively, help set goals, motivate and empower, and implement stress management techniques.

The semester-long training will cover topics such as nutrition basics, body image and self-esteem, foundations of physical activity, fitness assessments, individualized exercise programs, stress management and resilience.

The advocates will start meeting one-on-one with students in the spring semester. "We want peer wellness advocates and the students they work with to have an ongoing partnership," says Halpern. "The advocates will hold their peers accountable. And the students will know that they can go to their advocates for motivation and help."

◀ **WELLNESS SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE.** The University has partnered with Dr. Wayne Scott Andersen, a New York Times bestselling author and health pioneer, who will serve as the Mount's wellness scholar in residence. Through a series of in-person visits and virtual lectures, Andersen will talk to the peer wellness advocates about facilitating personal growth in others and the importance of living a healthier and more balanced life.

Andersen is the co-founder and chief architect of Optavia, a thriving community of individuals who are on a lifelong health and well-being transformation. He is the author of "Discover Your Optimal Health," "Dr. A's Habits of Health" and "Living a Longer, Healthier Life." He has been featured on "Good Morning, America" and in the Los Angeles Times.

Top row: Mona Pasquil, appointments secretary for California Gov. Jerry Brown, has been a regular speaker at the Mount's Ready to Run™ campaign training program. Among the R2R participants who are rising women leaders: middle row, Sonia Lopez and Cheryl Turner; and bottom row, Jessica Craven and Meghan Mai '19.

Off and running

Ready to Run™ alums share their paths into public service

By Phillip Jordan

SONIA LOPEZ WAS NO STRANGER TO POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS in 2014, when she first participated in Mount Saint Mary's Ready to Run™ (R2R) campaign training — a national, nonpartisan program that prepares more women to run for office and get involved in policymaking. Mount Saint Mary's is the Southern California provider of Ready to Run, with the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers. Passionate about higher education, Lopez had won a special election in 2013 as trustee on the Compton Community College District board. She has also served as a field representative for California Sen. Holly J. Mitchell since 2012.

But Lopez had never gone through a regular election cycle as a candidate. She attended R2R to hear speakers such as Compton Mayor Aja Brown, to network with other emerging leaders, and for fundraising and communications workshops. "For someone who doesn't know the how-to, conferences like Ready to Run are important; for the experienced, the value is in the fine-tuning and the networking," Lopez says. "It makes you think about common-sense things, as well as the nitty-gritty things."

She returned to R2R in 2015, and again in 2016 when she listened to her boss, Sen. Mitchell, speak. That fall, Lopez was re-elected to a full term as trustee.

"No matter who you are, running for office can be scary," Lopez says. "Hearing success stories from a diverse group of women can give you the inspiration you need. You can do this."

Since 2013, R2R — presented by the University's Center for the Advancement of Women — has brought together hundreds of emerging women leaders each year. And many of the program's alumnae are already making waves.

Jessica Craven attended R2R 2017. Since then, she has gained appointment to the board of the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council in Los Angeles. She has also joined several social activism groups, plans to register voters in her district in 2018 and has started a "daily action" email newsletter for subscribers.

"I used to be a 'volunteer-around-presidential-elections' sort of

PHOTO BY WATCHARA PHOMICINDA

Mount Saint Mary's is the Southern California provider of Ready to Run™, with the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers. R2R campaign training is a national, nonpartisan program designed to prepare more women to run for office and get involved in policymaking.

person," Craven says. "Now, I dedicate at least two hours every day to making the changes I want to see, with an emphasis on inspiring others to take action. In my own way, I'm making my mark on the political landscape and laying the groundwork for future runs."

Meghan Mai '19 also attended R2R 2017. A few months later, the Mount Saint Mary's sociology major started a summer internship in the office of L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti, serving on the Homelessness Policy Team. She plans to attend grad school, work on housing issues and run for city council in her hometown of Burbank, Calif. Mai's ultimate goal: driving national policy in Congress.

"Mount Saint Mary's has offered me so many life-changing opportunities," she says. "It's here that I've discovered my deep interest in government and public policy. Through my summer work in the mayor's office, I'm getting to see what it takes to effect change. All of this has fueled my passion to run for office one day."

Cheryl Turner attended R2R 2015 and 2017. An attorney with an extensive business background, she was already serving as commissioner and VP of the Los Angeles Convention and Exhibition Center Authority. But she was looking to make an impact at the state level, too. So, she attended R2R 2015 and listened to a session led by Mona Pasquil, appointments secretary for Gov. Jerry Brown.

One of the most powerful figures in state government, Pasquil recruits candidates and advises Gov. Brown on applicants for top cabinet positions and statewide boards and commissions. Two years later, Pasquil and Turner both returned for R2R 2017; when the two spoke, Pasquil discovered that Turner's business expertise would be valuable to a state board with a vacancy. A month later, Gov. Brown appointed Turner to the California Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians.

Pasquil says that's why R2R works: the combination of practical know-how and networking connections. "These events are really important because they demystify the process," Pasquil says. "If you're interested in an issue and you want to serve your community, your state or your country, you can. Step up! This event helps show you how."

Save the date: R2R 2018 will be held on April 28. For more R2R alum success stories, visit msmu.edu/magazine.

USA

School's out(side) for the summer

Summer is no slow season at Mount Saint Mary's University. From the lab to the field to the water, summertime is research time at the Mount.

By Phillip Jordan • Photos by Kim Fox

Jasmine Gutierrez '19 and Emelly Ortiz-Villa '20 had never conducted original, field research before. When they entered the lab at the start of their aquatic microbiology study, the specialized equipment seemed daunting. Their faculty mentor — Adriane Jones, PhD, an assistant professor of biological sciences — walked the students through each step of the project, and demonstrated the tools they'd use to accomplish it.

Fast-forward to today and the duo laughs when they remember those first days of summer. "We were so green," Gutierrez says. "But that didn't last long."

"About halfway through the program, we started taking the initiative," Ortiz-Villa says. "We'd come up with ideas to test and she'd say, 'Sounds interesting, go for it!' Then we'd be explaining our process to her."

The students attribute their newfound confidence and proficiency to their summer spent monitoring, testing and analyzing the water quality of the L.A. River, and surveying the biology and chemistry of marine protected areas along the Pacific coastline.

Over five hot weeks, the students regularly sampled five sections of the river, from its headwaters in the Sepulveda Basin, through the Glendale narrows and more industrial sections, down to its mouth at the Long Beach Estuary. They used sensors to gather real-time data, and collected samples to evaluate back in the lab — testing nutrients and measuring levels of bacteria, metals and other pollutants.

Thanks to a partnership that Jones established with the environmental nonprofit Los Angeles Waterkeeper, students also worked on a citizen-science "Bio Blitz" project to study the health of marine life and habitats within the Point Dume marine protected area.

"It was really intense, hands-on work, more than I expected I'd get to do," Ortiz-Villa says. "Especially considering I'd just finished my first year, I feel like I got an opportunity that probably wouldn't have been available to me at a lot of other schools. I want to pursue marine biology in the future, and I can already say I have some experience now."

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH RESEARCH

Research has long been a staple of the University's Graduate Division, but at Mount Saint Mary's, original, faculty-mentored research — particularly by students in STEM fields — is the domain of undergraduates, too. This past summer alone, undergrads participated in research projects that took them from L.A.'s waterways to the mountains of Peru (see sidebar).

"We value research at the undergraduate level because it builds knowledge and practical skills," Jones says. "You can take what you've learned in class and apply it to real-world situations with real-world applications. It also builds students' belief in their ability to do science. They can see themselves as leaders, as future scientists, as future doctors."

Jones sees this evidence up close. For several years, she has led a marine biology field course on Catalina Island over spring break. Last March, students investigated environmental sustainability practices at the Wrigley Marine Science Center on Catalina, alongside students and faculty of the USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies. On March 8 — coincidentally International Women's Day — the Mount's students went snorkeling to explore marine habitats. The following day, they were studying aquaponics and other sustainable farming methods.

Soon, more STEM students will have access to this kind of experience. In May, Jones and Xiaomei Cheng, PhD, an associate professor of biological sciences, earned a three-year, $200,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) award through the Improving Undergraduate STEM Education program. The professors applied for the grant in collaboration with USC faculty; now, Mount Saint Mary's students will have expanded entrée to immersive, research-based opportunities at USC's Wrigley Center — along with peer mentoring and exposure to career and graduate school options in the fields of environmental science and geoscience.

"We know the data," Jones says. "If students have

Previous page: Adriane Jones, PhD, leads Emelly Ortiz-Villa '20 and Jasmine Gutierrez '19 on a "Bio Blitz" project with L.A. Waterkeeper. Opposite page: Jones, Gutierrez and Ortiz-Villa test water flow and quality in the Los Angeles River (top); monitoring water quality and capturing samples for research along a marine protected area of the Pacific coastline (middle and bottom).

PHOTO BY MIDNIGHT HOUR

undergrad research experiences they are more likely to apply for advanced degrees and higher-level research opportunities. So, to us, this is one of the most important pieces of their education."

Two of Jones' recent research graduates prove the point. Jennifer Aldous '16 heads to Johns Hopkins this fall to begin a master of science in environmental health; Vivianna Sanchez '17 was a graduate teaching assistant for USC's Global Environmental Microbiolgy summer field course.

Similar doors could one day open for Gutierrez and Ortiz-Villa. Gutierrez's goal is to become a doctor. Going forward, she wants to get involved in patient-based research programs. As for Ortiz-Villa, she'll soon apply for a coveted Research Experience for Undergraduates placement through the NSF — to work on an NSF-funded project at a host U.S. research institution.

For now, the two students are preparing their summer findings to present at University academic symposiums, and at this fall's Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research.

"No matter what we do in the future," Gutierrez says, "we're better prepared now for what comes next. That's good, because there's a lot we want to accomplish."

PHOTO BY GLENN MARZANO

Stephanie Hickman and Melanie Corral present their research on developing vocational labor market opportunities, as part of the Keck Summer Undergraduate Research program.

MORE SUMMER RESEARCH AT THE MOUNT

Water wasn't the only subject under the proverbial microscope in recent months. Below is a sampling of additional summer studies conducted by Mount students.

PROJECT: DIABETES AND CANCER RESEARCH

Faculty lead: Luiza Nogaj, PhD, associate professor of biological sciences

In a project funded by a National Institute of Health grant, students spent six weeks analyzing the effects of IAPP aggregation (a protein thought to play a role in diabetes). They also examined the role of polyphenolic compounds in preventing the toxic effects of IAPP on human cells, as well as the effect of p53 mutations (the most mutated protein in cancer) on human cell viability.

PROJECT: INVESTIGATING DNA DAMAGE

Faculty lead: Eric Stemp, PhD, chair of physical sciences and mathematics

Biochemistry students researched oxidative damage to DNA in order to better identify and understand the onset of molecular diseases such as cancer and Parkinson's. They employed a variety of approaches, including using a transient absorption spectrometer, which allowed them to witness the damage being caused in real-time, as opposed to simply "studying the crime scene" after the fact.

PROJECT: COMMUNITY HEALTH RESEARCH IN THE ANDES

Faculty leads: Lia Roberts, PhD, associate professor of political science; Sylvine Deprele, PhD, associate professor of physical sciences and mathematics; Luiza Nogaj, PhD

As part of an interdisciplinary research project, students traveled to Peru this August to conduct surveys of women living in Andean communities with high cancer rates. Students prepared by completing a "Politics of Peru" course taught by Roberts, and a "Cancer and Society" course taught by Deprele and Nogaj, to gain the theoretical knowledge and practical lab skills needed for this ambitious project (full story in the Spring 2018 Mount Magazine).

PROJECT: KECK SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Faculty lead: Paul Green, PhD, professor of philosophy and faculty undergraduate research coordinator

◀ Each summer, a group of undergraduates are selected for this competitive, 10-week program to conduct original research across a variety of disciplines. This year, seven research teams (each comprised of two students and one faculty mentor) broke new ground in areas including intersectional identities in poetry; women's roles in the American Revolution; mapping Latina literature; addressing traumatic birth experiences; cyanobacteria as an aid in fighting global warming; developing vocational trade opportunities in Los Angeles; and best approaches to helping military veterans transition back to college.

PROJECT: STEM RESEARCH IN D.C., STANFORD

Faculty lead: Carol Johnston, PhD, assistant professor of education and administrator of the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarships Program

Cristina Garcia '18, a math major, served a STAR (STEM Teacher and Researcher) summer research internship at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory at Stanford University, where she worked with a software development team as a data analyst for protein crystallography. Fellow Noyce scholar Stephanie Jimenez '18, biochemistry, presented her STEM research on air pollution in Los Angeles and Peru at the 2017 Noyce Summit in Washington, D.C.

L.A. to LE PUY:

Journey to the start

Story and photos by Phillip Jordan

At some point, we all wonder where we came from and what our roots can tell us about who we are. At Mount Saint Mary's University, we're fortunate: We know our origin story.

It began 367 years ago in France's Rhone Valley, in the village of Le Puy, a town built upon volcanic hillsides. There, in 1650, the first six Sisters of St. Joseph formed a revolutionary community of women who were not content to cloister themselves away from the world. Instead, they dedicated themselves to a new kind of religious life in which they responded to the needs of the world around them.

We know this philosophy well. It was the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJs) who in 1925 founded Mount Saint Mary's atop another hillside, this one in Southern California.

View from the top of the Cathédrale Notre-Dame in Le Puy, France.

To help us reconnect with our heritage, and to pass the sisters' charism down to new generations, the University's CSJ Institute has created an ongoing series of Le Puy pilgrimages. This summer, the latest group of faculty, staff, alums, sisters and friends of the school set off to follow in our founders' footsteps.

Led by President Ann McElaney-Johnson, travelers met sisters from around the world who serve in France today. They climbed to the top of the Cathédrale Notre-Dame. And they stood in the stone-built kitchen where the sisters first met to plan their ministry.

The pilgrims finished their journey in Lyon at the grave of Mother St. John Fontbonne. It was she who regathered the sisters following an era of imprisonment and martyrdom during the French Revolution, and sent the first Sisters of St. Joseph to America in 1836 to Carondelet, Missouri. From there, the sisters fanned across the continent carrying a message of unifying love as they established hospitals; prison ministries; programs for women, children and the poor; and schools such as Mount Saint Mary's.

"The seeds we've sown, at places like the Mount, are carrying our mission forward in ways we never imagined," said Sr. Suzanne Jabro, founder of the Get on the Bus program and one of three CSJs on the trip. "Our mission started with us, but it will live on thanks to others."

Stay tuned for details on a 2018 Le Puy pilgrimage, and see a slideshow from this year's trip at msmu.edu/magazine.

The Mount Saint Mary's and Le Puy communities together at the Sisters of St. Joseph International Center in Le Puy, France. Here, the Sisters of St. Joseph first formed.

{ UNSTOPPABLE }

Mary Lenihan '58, left, on the Camino de Santiago in Spain

Finding the way

By Anissa V. Rivera

WHAT DO YOU PACK FOR THE JOURNEY of a lifetime? Mary Lenihan '58, who recently traversed the famous Camino de Santiago in Spain for the second time, brought comfortable clothes, sturdy shoes, a walking stick and an open mind.

Lenihan, 80, first walked the Camino in 2013 after watching the Martin Sheen movie "The Way." The Camino de Santiago, or the Way of St. James, is a centuries-old pilgrimage path through France and Spain. Running through cities, roads and mountains, it ends at the cathedral in Santiago de Compostela, where tradition holds the apostle St. James is buried.

"After I saw the movie, I thought, 'I can do that,'" Lenihan says. She and a friend completed an abbreviated 100-mile version of the 500-mile trek from Portugal to Spain, minus the more arduous backpacking.

Each day began by waking early, then walking 10 miles a day through thick fog, quiet forests and wooded paths. "What keeps you going are the people," she says. "You're walking along and you see so many people from all over the world. It does inspire you."

Lenihan, a California native, graduated from Mount Saint Mary's with a bachelor's degree in history and education. She works as a realtor in Palos Verdes, Calif. Her second trip on the Camino was to celebrate her 80th birthday in March.

Lenihan says she remembers both journeys for the meals of Spanish grappa and tapas, coffee enjoyed with new friends, visits to churches and monasteries, and the joyful arrival at the cathedral in Santiago. But she also cherishes memories of walking through rainstorms, enduring rough patches on the road and uphill climbs.

The gift Lenihan brought back from both her journeys is intangible.

"You can do it if you put your mind to it," she says. Success in walking the Camino and in life is simply "being able to feel good about yourself at the end of the day."

VOLUNTEER: Alums helped welcome incoming students at the Chalon and Doheny Orientation events this summer.

WELLNESS MOVEMENT: The Wellness Pavilion at Chalon will house new health, fitness and sports programs.

GET INVOLVED AT THE MOUNT

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK. We invite you to join us. Mount supporters are able to make a difference in the lives of current students. How? Let us count the ways…

VOLUNTEER

MSMU Alumnae

Do you have a little extra time and a lot of affection for Mount Saint Mary's? Become a volunteer — we can always use an extra hand!

- Tutor current students in writing or math;
- Be a guest speaker for a class or workshop;
- Volunteer at the annual President's Day of Service;
- Provide resume reviews and mock interviews for Career Services;
- Interview prospective students for Admissions;
- Serve as a Reunion Class Ambassador;
- And more!

Please contact Kate Fergusson, director of alumnae relations and volunteer engagement, at kfergusson@msmu.edu or 213.477.2512, or visit alums.msmu.edu/volunteer to learn more.

Doheny Mansion Docent

Docents plan, lead and assist in public and private tours of the Mansion. This opportunity is open to alumnae, students and friends of the University. We provide training to help docents build the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to be successful! Please contact Mary Sloper at 310.373.2874 or mary@sloper.org to learn more.

SUPPORT

The Wellness Movement

Mount Saint Mary's University has created a comprehensive wellness initiative centered on the principles of inclusion, empowerment, and personal well-being. The new Wellness Pavilion will house special programs for healthy nutrition, physical activity, sleep health, and stress reduction – everything our students need to master the art of living well. Visit msmu.edu/wellness to learn more.

Mount Fund & Mount Associates

Annual contributions to the Mount Fund, the annual fund at Mount Saint Mary's, provide funding that directly supports our students and faculty. Your support makes a difference and every gift counts!

Contributors of $1,000 or greater annually are recognized as Mount Associate members and receive invitations to an annual luncheon hosted by the President. Visit msmu.edu/support to learn more.

Regent's Council

Members of the Regent's Council volunteer to serve as ambassadors in the community. Council members pledge $2,500 or greater and attend meetings twice annually to meet key faculty and staff, and learn about University initiatives and activities.

The Heritage Society & Planned Giving

The Heritage Society, established in 1992, is comprised of alumnae, friends and faculty who have made plans to provide future support for the University. Notify us now of a planned gift and enjoy the benefits of joining the Heritage Society! Visit msmu.edu/plannedgiving to learn more.

JOIN US!

Those who support the Mount are recognized in the annual President's Report & Donor Honor Roll, receive the Mount Magazine, and are invited to attend special activities and events throughout the year. Please contact Megan Shockro, senior director of development at 213.477.2875 or mshockro@msmu.edu to learn more.

PROFILE OF PHILANTHROPY: MYRIAM '72 AND ROY EASTON

Investing in science, inspiring women

By Anissa V. Rivera

PHOTO BY GLENN MARZANO

"I give credit to (my professors) and to the Mount for preparing me for the scientific career that I have enjoyed for more than 40 years."
Myriam Perdices Easton '72

THE UNIVERSITY ATOP THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS is 2,289 miles away from Havana, Cuba. It must have seemed a world away for Myriam (Perdices) Easton '72 when she arrived on campus in 1970, a young Cuban refugee with limited English skills but enough determination to start anew.

"Mount Saint Mary's was a very important influence in my life," she says. "It helped me become what I am. The Mount trusted and accepted me as a student without official credentials," which she could not obtain to substantiate her prior studies of three years in chemistry at the University of Havana, because of the political situation in Cuba.

She went on to UCLA, where she earned her master's degree in chemistry and met her husband, Dr. Roy Easton. Roy serves as executive director of the Easton Family Foundation, which was started by his father, Dr. Nelson Easton, the inventor of Prozac.

Since 1977, Myriam has worked as a research scientist at The Aerospace Corporation in El Segundo, Calif., providing technical expertise to the Air Force and other Department of Defense groups. She is an expert on rocket fuels and their compatibility with other materials; explosives used on rockets and spacecraft; and adhesives, composites and similar materials.

Interested in giving back to Mount Saint Mary's, the Easton Family Foundation recently donated a green diode laser to the physical sciences department. The Eastons were happy to see it being used by students, and hear about the impact it will have on future research, during a campus visit in June.

"I loved being a Mountie, living in Brady Hall and making friends with some of the nicest people that I have ever met," Myriam says. "I give credit to (my professors) and to the Mount for preparing me for the scientific career that I have enjoyed for more than 40 years."

The laser will be used in student research in several labs, says Eric Stemp, PhD, chemistry professor and chair of the physical sciences department.

"We are very grateful to the Eastons not only for the laser itself but also for the time they spent with our students and faculty," Stemp says. "Their stories, particularly those from Myriam about how she has overcome adversity throughout her life and career, were truly inspiring. Myriam loves to encourage women scientists not only in their jobs but also in balancing family and careers."

"Society still discourages women from non-traditional female jobs," Myriam says. "Young women have more difficulty than their male counterparts to pursue and persist in those roles and jobs. They have to prove themselves constantly. (So my advice is) do what you love, and know that you have contributed in your endeavors."

That's the standard that brought success home to Myriam, who remains grateful and happy to pass the lessons and the blessings along to her Mount family. The Easton Family Foundation's generosity continues, as it has recently funded the purchase of molecular modeling software critical to the department's modern chemistry education.

PROFILE OF PHILANTHROPY: PAT GALT '47

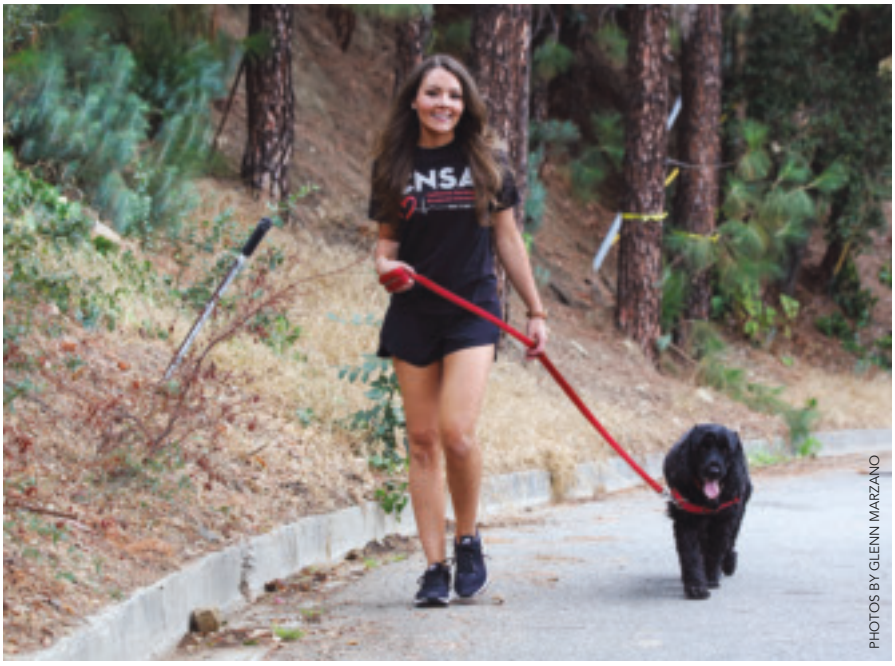
Healthy lifestyle leads the way

PAT (GISLER) GALT '47 BELIEVES IN BALANCE. As a lifelong tennis player, a healthy lifestyle has always been a top priority. In her junior year at Mount Saint Mary's, Galt started the first competitive sports team at the University. She found a tennis coach, assembled a team, trained and ultimately competed against other colleges. She served as president of MSMU's Women's Athletic Association her senior year.

"I grew up at the Mount. It's where I started my adult life," she says. "But I just loved tennis so much, I didn't know what else I wanted to do!" Galt found direction through Sister Mary Ida, who encouraged her to go into social work. She worked for the Catholic Youth Organization for a few years and then decided that teaching was a better option. She became an elementary school teacher, coached tennis and eventually became the main coordinator of physical education at St. Mary's Academy. She taught for over 30 years.

Galt is thrilled to establish her legacy at the Mount and become a member of the Heritage Society. She is among many who have designated the Mount in their estate plans with the help of the Institutional Advancement team. She is also a strong supporter of the Wellness Pavilion.

"Being healthy is how I've lived so long," she says. "It's important for women to be active, and I'm thrilled to help any way I can."



PHOTOS BY GLENN MARZANO

Chelsea Kennedy '18 walks Cali in Brentwood after a day at UCLA doing her summer clinical internship. Below, Kennedy with Charles and Teri Kahn.

A lease, a leash and a lifelong link

NURSING STUDENT CHELSEA KENNEDY '18 started out as Brentwood homeowners Teri and Charles Kahn's tenant and dog walker. Two years later, she's become like a daughter to them.

"They're my second set of parents," says Kennedy. "Teri acts like my mother. She makes sure I get enough sleep and that I eat well."

Kennedy is the fifth Mount student who has lived with the Kahns since the couple opened up their home to Chalon Campus students 11 years ago. In exchange for a room and a mere 10-minute commute to campus, the students' end of the bargain involves caring for the couple's dogs. Kennedy started living with the Kahns during her first year in the traditional baccalaureate nursing program. For half an hour five days a week, she walks Cali, their Portuguese Water Dog, around the neighborhood.

"She's an amazing person. We love her," Teri says. "This has become more than just a casual arrangement. She's family."

Kennedy, now a senior, credits the Kahns for a huge part of her academic success. "They are great role models and are super involved with both the community and environment. They treat me like family and have made these past few years of nursing school an unforgettable experience. I know I will always remain close with them."

2017 HOMECOMING & REUNION

OCT. 14, 2017

A CELEBRATION OF GENERATIONS

Reconnect with former classmates and reminisce about your days at the Mount with your class, family and friends!

SCHEDULE

8:30 A.M.
Coffee and Conversation

9 A.M.
Founder's Day Mass and
Golden Grad Society Induction

11 A.M.
Champagne Brunch

Outstanding Alum Awards
Service to the University:
Joy Bejarano '15 MBA
Professional Achievement:
Kristin (Vanderlip) Taylor '97

Reunion Celebrations*

12:30 P.M.
Dessert Reception
Class Photos
Photo Booth
Music through the Decades

1:45 P.M.
Campus Walking Tours

*We encourage all alums, family and friends to attend and help us honor the classes of '57, '62, '67, '72, '77, '82, '87, '92, '97, '02, '07, and '12.

alums.msmu.edu

PHOTO BY KIM FOX

HOMECOMING 2017: OUTSTANDING ALUMNAE AWARDS

Passion projects

From teaching art to mentoring students, this year's Outstanding Alumnae Award recipients embody excellence, dedication and outstanding service to others and the University.

Stories by Anissa V. Rivera

Creating 'a-ha!' moments

EVEN AS A KID, KRISTIN (VANDERLIP) TAYLOR '97 had always loved everything about art — "the creative process, the artistic challenge, the imaginative explorations." So after her first term at the Mount as a psych major, she decided to pursue her true passion and switched her major to art.

Now, Vanderlip Taylor is a visual arts teacher at the K–8 Sylmar Leadership Academy and has designed curriculum for the Los Angeles Unified School District, the California Art Education Association (CAEA), the Natural History Museum and other groups. She is also an instructor at California State University, Northridge. The CAEA named her the state's art educator of the year in 2016. The National Art Education Association, Pacific Region, named her its top elementary arts educator for 2017.

"I'm energized by watching students (at all levels) work through their own creative processes," she said. "I love seeing their discoveries and 'a-ha!' moments as they plan and create from their own interests and ideas. Seeing students navigate their way through artistic challenges, collaborating and giving each other meaningful feedback, always makes me feel so lucky to be an observer of their imaginative explorations."

At homecoming festivities in October, the Mount will recognize Vanderlip Taylor with the Outstanding Alumnae Award for Professional Achievement. Also that day, her mother, Mary Lou (Starr) Vanderlip '67 will be inducted — along with the rest of the Class of 1967 — into the Golden Grad Society on the 50th anniversary of her graduation.

For Vanderlip Taylor, professional success has come from "saying 'yes'

to opportunities, which have led me to people and places I may never have encountered otherwise," she says. Her first opportunity came at the Mount.

Because the University didn't offer a graphic design program in the '90s, Vanderlip Taylor said her professors created independent study opportunities and internships for her.

These experiences paved the way for her to work as a production artist, art director and freelance designer before earning her teaching credentials in 2003. Vanderlip Taylor completed her master's degree in art education in 2007 and became a National Board-certified teacher in early/middle school art in 2008.

She's also learned that "success is realizing that once you achieve something, there's something more to learn, to aspire to, or reach for." She is currently pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership, administration and policy from Pepperdine University.

For Vanderlip Taylor, the big picture always includes new adventures on the horizon.

"It amazes me to think that 20 years have passed since leaving the Mount," she says. "Sometimes I feel like it's not possible, until I think of all the projects I've worked on over the years. Along the way, I've gained mentors, colleagues, friends and family who have made my life richer. I've learned a lot of lessons, which have helped me grow both personally and professionally. The funny thing is, I really still feel like I'm just getting started!"

HOMECOMING 2017: OUTSTANDING ALUM AWARDS

Navigating a path for alums

JOY BEJARANO '15 MBA, DIDN'T QUITE KNOW what she was getting herself into when she was first elected president of the board of directors of MAPs, the Mount's MBA Alumni Professionals association.

She knew she felt a singular belonging to the Mount family, and a strong call to share the wisdom of her experiences. So Bejarano went all in and made the role her own. Her commitment means she is on campus for a multitude of events, from student orientations to information sessions.

"I believe alumni presence is necessary in as many MBA events as possible to support and inspire our current students," Bejarano says. "The worth of our MBA becomes much more valuable when our network is strong."

Bejarano set "the bar for all graduates of Mount Saint Mary's to follow," according to Christian B. Teeter, assistant professor of business and former director of the University's MBA program. She is a "distinguished graduate whose unyielding loyalty to Mount Saint Mary's has shined through again and again."

At homecoming festivities in October, the Mount will recognize Bejarano with the Outstanding Alumnae Award for Service to the University, honoring her work with the alumni association, its mentorships, speaker series and outreach programs.

It is a labor of love grown out of Bejarano's MBA experience, especially from connecting and

PHOTO BY WATCHARA PHOMICINDA

learning with her cohort of 12 colleagues in the program.

"The rigor of the program forced us to really trust each other, learn from each other, and overcome the difficult times brought on by the program's natural pressures," she says. "Through conflict, we persevered, grew from the experiences and learned to be friends."

Bejarano also works to strengthen ties with alumni, especially women. She led a women's leadership panel showcasing successful graduates in their careers and encourages alumnae to come back to the Mount and speak to students.

Strengthening ties is a skill that serves Bejarano well in her professional life, too. She is an accounting manager for the Canadian divsion of Advantage Solutions, a sales and marketing agency based in Irvine, Calif. "It's challenging having to lead my Canada division remotely, but I love that I am able to work with different teams to find solutions to issues that arise," Bejarano says.

She received a certificate in accounting from UCLA and earned her bachelor's degree in business administration from Brandman University. She said her experience at the Mount has taught her not only the value of academics, but the importance of relationships.

"I hope Mount students are inspired to give back to their alma mater with the objective of shaping students' lives positively," she says. "For me, earning my MBA at the Mount changed my life so significantly, I make it a point to share with students that if they commit themselves and work through the rigor, they too will find their own successes."

CLASS NOTES

1958 **Josephine (Bondan) Roche** will take a 10-day cruise with family and friends from Boston, Mass., to Quebec City, Canada, this fall.

1960 **Donna May Avery**'s essay on her experience as a survivor of esophageal cancer was published in the June 2017 issue of Conquer magazine.

Marilyn (Brassor) Nagel has retired from the teaching profession.

1963 **Bernice (Fijak) Lynch-Bajada** and her husband visited five countries in Africa in December 2016: Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Gambia and Zimbabwe. Please keep her husband in your prayers as he is undergoing chemotherapy treatments.

Collette (Boland) Quinn continues to be busy with her 10 grandchildren. She and **Janet (Hebert) Smith** attended a tea in the spring at Filoli, a public garden in the Silicon Valley considered to be "one of the finest remaining country estates of the early 20th century."

1974 **Johnetta Smith** and her sister, Barbarann, will take a cruise that visits Labadee, Haiti; Falmouth, Jamaica; and Cozumel, Mexico, in April 2018.

1975 **Alice Gardello** had a wonderful chance encounter on the Chalon Campus while volunteering at the new student orientation in June. She came across one of her former students, Cecilia Aguilar, whom she taught in second grade 11 years ago! Cecilia is enrolled as a first-year pre-nursing major.

1992 **Miriam (Giladi) Bogler** launched her company, Project Pals, in January and began a series of pilot collaborations with schools in Georgia and Michigan. The company provides

students with an innovative cloud-based solution that encourages cooperative problem solving.

1998 **Jane (Harris) Nadeau**, a proud alum of Weekend/Evening College, is expanding her volunteer activities to include becoming a senior police partner with the Long Beach Police Department. She will be part of a team that participates in community outreach, performs welfare and vacation checks on seniors, and helps out at special events in the city. She will continue to volunteer with the WomenShelter of Long Beach.

2005 **Marielos (Zeka) Kluck** earned a master's degree in art history and a certificate in museum and cultural studies from California State University, Long Beach. She is a contributor to "Playing with Fire: Paintings by Carlos Almaraz," a book celebrating one of Los Angeles' most influential artists.

2008 **Danielle Rose (Urquiola) Batol Steel** has traveled to Peru and Japan.

IN MEMORIAM

'42 Peggy (Perry) Kehoe
'47 Frances (Shannon) Joy
'49 Gloria (Hayes) Di Giovanni
'50 Jeanne (Kingston) DiMaria
'51 Mary Lou (Hart) Forbath
'52 Barbara (Hartman) Caraccio
'52 Juanita (Cusack) Quinn
'52 Mary Frances Rebel
'53 Mary Alice (Zalesny) Hawkins
'53 Eleanor Eagan
'55 Mary Ellen (Breen) Rowe
'56 Valerie (Munton) Krummer
'56 Husband of Danuta (Krotoska) Shaw
'61 Margaret Murphy
'62 Marianne (Zella) Kainz
'63 Carolyn (Dennis) Horeczko
'65 Mary Ricarda "Ricky" (Ruplinger) Warkentin
'65 Husband of Eileen (Murphy) Bigelow
'65 Esther (Ramirez) Salazar
'67 Sr. Nancy Munro, CSJ
'68 Sr. James Marien Dyer, CSJ
'73 Mary Ann Ware
'79 Mother of Joan Cashion
'79 Father of Natalie (Harris) Martinez
'99 Theresa Agbincola
'05 Mother of Agasia Lanier
'07 Jennifer (Batugo) Gargano
'13 Monique Richard-Roberts

THANK YOU

A big, heartfelt thank you to Barbara (Dummel) Brunner '63, who is retiring from her role as Class Notes editor for Mount Magazine after more than 20 years. We wish her the very best! If you want to volunteer as Class Notes editor, please contact alums@msmu.edu.

MEET YOUR ALUM BOARD

Congratulations to our Mount Saint Mary's University alum board for another year of outstanding service! From left, top row: Suzanne Weber Hoffman '84, Jessica Rojas Cuevas '01 '10 MS '14 MBA, Barbara Weber Smith '72, Susette Aguiar-Possnack '99, Patricia Weber Ortega '08, Genevieve Cawthorn '11. Bottom row: Tess Ottenbreit '09 MA, Jeanne Jagatich Fisher '78, '80, Sr. Imelda D'Agostino '58, Rosa Sanchez White '91, Vernice Grajeda '11, Maria Avila Gengenbacher '91. Not pictured: Ocaidy Hunziker '11, Canetana Edwards Hurd '08, '09 MBA, Nancy Valdivia Antoniou '06, '09 MBA, Rocio Palmero '08 and Taline Hanna '08.

BAY AREA SUMMER SENDOFF

Our Bay Area family gathered on July 30 at the home of Danette (Hoffman) Magilligan '64 in Hillsborough, Calif., to welcome incoming first-year students and their families to the Mount community. Thank you to all who came!

ARIZONA GATHERING

Alums in the Phoenix and Scottsdale areas of Arizona met for dinner and cocktails on June 1. They met the Mount's chief wellness officer, Bryant Adibe, and the new director of alumnae relations, Kate Fergusson. If you want to know when the next regional event will take place, please email alums@msmu.edu.

Left: Sisters Alice Marie Cheap, left, and Eloise Therese Mescall, CSJs, both professors at MSMU, prepare to board a Scandinavian Airlines jet for Vienna, Austria, on December 14, 1960. Their visit to the University of Vienna established a foreign study program for Mount students. *Right:* Sister Eloise Therese Mescall with a group of her Study Abroad students in an undated photo from the early 1980s.

The adventure begins

STUDENTS TRAVELING ABROAD THIS SUMMER joined a more than 60-year tradition at the Mount, a trail blazed by CSJ faculty back in the 1950s.

In June 1955, three sisters boarded a steamship in New York City for the long, often stormy trip across the North Atlantic. They were headed to Paris for a summer of study: Sisters Eloise Therese Mescall in French, Mary Timothy Spellacy in music, and Alice Marie Cheap in chemistry. Afterwards, they toured the continent. The letters from Les Voyageurs, as they called themselves, were printed in the campus journal Inter-Nos and are preserved in the University Archives.

These faculty members must have known that such a transformative adventure ought to be shared with their students, because just a few months later, the Mount's first study abroad program was launched with La Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City. It was followed the next year by Laval University in Quebec and the University of Vienna in 1960.

The Mount also introduced a 2½-month "grand tour" of Europe for students in 1959 for the bargain price of $1,625 (about $13,500 in today's dollars, still a pretty good deal). The European tour continued in various forms into the 2000s.

The tradition of faculty and students writing letters from abroad continues today in the Study Away newsletter, also available in the archives. To browse travel letters from the 1950s go to msmu.edu/magazine.

— Victoria McCargar, University archivist

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TRAVEL WITH THE MOUNT: RUSSIA 2018

Mount Saint Mary's Alumnae Association is leading an eastern expedition next summer, and you're invited! Explore the grandeur of Russia during an eight-night, small-group experience that reveals Moscow's imperial riches and distinctive art; its famous Red Square; the iconic St. Basil's Cathedral; Metro stations, museums and other treasures. Then, travel by high-speed train to St. Petersburg to visit the State Hermitage Museum; Peterhof Palace, once the home of Peter the Great; the historic Mariinsky Theater of opera and ballet; and more. In all, visitors will visit three UNESCO World Heritage sites, enjoy first-class hotels, enriching lectures, delicious meals and local wine among friends old and new. The trip is scheduled for Aug. 1-10, 2018. For details, visit alums.msmu.edu, call 213.477.2767, or email alums@msmu.edu.

Upcoming

Oct. 14
Homecoming & Reunions, Chalon Campus. alums.msmu.edu

Nov. 4
President's Invitation to Serve. msmu.edu/invitetoserve, alums.msmu.edu/service2017

Dec. 3
Christmas Magic Doheny Mansion open house, Doheny Campus. slee@msmu.edu

Dec. 15
Heritage Society & Loyal Donor Luncheon, Doheny Campus. mshockro@msmu.edu

Jan. 29
"Two Roads, One Journey" exhibition, Doheny Campus. Through April 28. eapfelstadt@msmu.edu

Jan. 30
Prepped, Planned and Balanced Caregiving, Doheny Campus. alums.msmu.edu

Feb. 4
Alum gathering, Washington, D.C. alums@msmu.edu

Feb. 21
President's Scholarship Appreciation Luncheon, Chalon Campus. mshockro@msmu.edu

March 22
Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California™, Skirball Cultural Center. msmu.edu/statusofwomen